



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
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SEP 8 2005

NGB-J1

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANTS GENERAL OF ALL STATES, PUERTO RICO, THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS, GUAM, AND THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD

SUBJECT: All States (Log Number P05-0005) National Guard Bureau Policy on Sexual Assault

1. Sexual assault is a crime that will not be tolerated in the National Guard. Sexual assault has a devastating and often lasting impact on the victim, a fellow Guardsmen. Sexual assault degrades our readiness and tears at unit cohesion – every member of the unit is affected. Sexual assault has no place in the National Guard.
2. The National Guard Bureau has formed a Sexual Assault Working Group (SAWG) and hired a full time Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). The SAWG and SARC will focus on the National Guard's implementation of the Department of Defense's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program. While you should expect additional information and guidance in the future, make no mistake about my support for this program and what I expect of you.
3. National Guard leaders at every level will create and promote a positive command climate in which victims have the confidence in their chain of command and civil/military investigators to report these crimes immediately. Leaders must ensure that Guardsmen and other members of the Guard community treat sexual assault victims with dignity, fairness, and respect for their privacy. Leaders will make victims aware of existing civilian and military medical facilities, legal offices, and other programs to assist victims in seeking immediate medical care, counseling and seamless victim assistance. Bottom line: Prevent sexual assault and fully assist victims if it does occur!
4. This memorandum will expire one year from date of publication unless sooner rescinded or superseded.
5. Point of contact is Ms. Deborah White, NGB SARC at DSN 327-9193 or 703 607-9193.

H STEVEN BLUM
Lieutenant General, US Army
Chief, National Guard Bureau